

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCCT-02 M-02 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-08 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07

SP-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

A-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SY-04 CU-05 USIA-15 CPR-02 DRC-01

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R 151542Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1507

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, ASEC, PFOR

SUBJ: PROTEST NOTE CONCERNING DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY

REFS: A) PANAMA 4718 B) PANAMA 4719

1. FULL TEXT OF PROTEST NOTE CONCERNING THE DEMONSTRATION WHICH OCCURRED AT THE EMBASSY AUGUST 14 FOLLOWS. WE WILL SEEK TO DELIVER NOTE TODAY, AUGUST 15, ALTHOUGH GOP OFFICES ARE CLOSED DUE TO CELEBRATION OF 455TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION OF OLD PANAMA CITY.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU OF THE DISTURBANCE INCLUDING VIOLENCE WHICH OCCURRED AT THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TODAY, AUGUST 14, 1974, AND TO PROTEST THE ACTIONS WHICH

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RESULTED IN MUCH DAMAGE TO THE EMBASSY BUILDING AND GROUNDS.

THE DEMONSTRATION, ITS VIOLENCE, AND THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA FAILED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION IS A MATTER WHICH I AND MY GOVERNMENT VIEW WITH UTMOST CONCERN.

APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTO NACIONAL ARRIVED AT THE EMBASSY AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 A.M.

SOME NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT TO BLOCK OFF TRAFFIC ON THE NORTH SIDE OF AVENIDA BALBOA TO ALLOW THE STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE. AFTER A FEW MINUTES APPROXIMATELY FIFTY STUDENTS ENTERED EMBASSY PROPERTY TO BURN A REPLICA OF AN AMERICAN FLAG AND BEGAN COMMITTING MINOR ACTS OF VANDALISM. NOTING THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL DID NOTHING TO STOP THEM, SOME STUDENTS BROUGHT UP BRICKS AND STONES AND BEGAN THROWING THEM AT THE EMBASSY'S WINDOWS. DURING THE NEXT HOUR 83 WINDOWS WERE BROKEN AND MUCH OTHER DAMAGE WAS DONE TO EMBASSY PROPERTY. UNIFORMED NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL STOOD BY AND WITNESSED THESE UNLAWFUL ACTS AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY WITHOUT MAKING ANY ATTEMPT TO HALT OR EVEN DISCOURAGE THE STUDENTS. PERSONNEL FROM THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLES WERE ON THE SCENE: GN PATROL TRUCK NO. 45, GN POLICE CAR NO. 9, GN POLICE CAR NO. 2 AND A LARGE POLICE SEDAN. FINALLY AT 12:50 P.M. A PLAIN CLOTHES OFFICIAL ARRIVED AND BEGAN TO DISPERSE THE DEMONSTRATORS. BY 1:05 P.M. THEY HAD DISPERSED.

I WISH TO REEMPHASIZE MY CONCERN AND THAT OF MY GOVERNMENT OVER THE FAILURE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THE EMBASSY DESPITE OUR REPEATED REQUESTS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DIRECTLY TO THE POLICE AUTHORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY SHARES MY DESIRE THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT NOT BE ALLOWED TO RECUR AND THAT THEY NOT BE PERMITTED TO AFFECT THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

I AM EQUALY CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA WILL PROMPTLY UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION, PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE AND PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR ALL DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY THIS MISSION AND THAT IT WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO INSURE THAT THERE SHALL BE NO RECURRENCE OF THIS DEPLORABLE AFFAIR.

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ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEwed ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.
JORDEN

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